



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5300**

February Session, 2022



**AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND PROHIBITING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the 2022 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish  
5 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System, the  
6 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
7 College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and  
8 postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System,  
9 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
10 College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3)  
11 establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State  
12 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
13 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the  
14 effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional  
15 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in  
16 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) [merge or close]

17 recommend a merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut  
18 State University System, the regional community-technical college  
19 system and Charter Oak State College in accordance with criteria  
20 established by the board, provided (A) such [recommended merger or  
21 closing] recommendation shall require a two-thirds vote of the board,  
22 [and] (B) the board shall send notice of such recommended merger or  
23 closing, [shall be sent] in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
24 4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
25 cognizance [over] of matters relating to higher education, and [to the  
26 General Assembly] (C) such recommended merger or closing shall be  
27 approved by a majority vote of both houses of the General Assembly or  
28 rejected by a majority vote of either house of the General Assembly not  
29 later than one year after receiving notice by the board pursuant to  
30 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision or the adjournment of the next  
31 regular session of the General Assembly, whichever is later, provided,  
32 if the General Assembly fails to act, such recommended merger or  
33 closing shall be deemed approved; (6) review and approve mission  
34 statements for the Connecticut State University System, the regional  
35 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College and  
36 role and scope statements for the individual institutions and campuses  
37 of such constituent units; (7) review and approve any recommendations  
38 for the establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board  
39 by the state universities within the Connecticut State University System,  
40 the regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State  
41 College, and, in consultation with the affected constituent units, provide  
42 for the initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs;  
43 (8) develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs at the  
44 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical  
45 college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B) institutions  
46 within the Connecticut State University System and the regional  
47 community-technical college system and enforce standards through  
48 licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the Governor and  
49 General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated  
50 operating and capital expenditure budgets for the Connecticut State  
51 University System, the regional community-technical college system

52 and Charter Oak State College developed in accordance with the  
53 provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and make  
54 recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State  
55 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
56 and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in  
57 section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives  
58 from public and independent institutions of higher education to study  
59 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public institutions  
60 of higher education under its jurisdiction with The University of  
61 Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to  
62 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12) evaluate (A)  
63 means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and (B)  
64 any recommendations made by the Planning Commission for Higher  
65 Education in implementing the strategic master plan pursuant to section  
66 10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as  
67 external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate programs  
68 and services among the Connecticut State University System, the  
69 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
70 College; (14) assess opportunities for collaboration with The University  
71 of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to  
72 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into  
73 contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its  
74 responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate  
75 by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23;  
76 (16) be responsible for the care and maintenance of permanent records  
77 of institutions of higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969;  
78 (17) prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly  
79 legislative proposals affecting the Connecticut State University System,  
80 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
81 College; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education  
82 information system and establish definitions and data requirements for  
83 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
84 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) until June  
85 30, 2024, report all new programs and program changes at the  
86 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical

87 college system and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher  
88 Education; and (20) undertake such studies and other activities as will  
89 best serve the higher educational interests of the Connecticut State  
90 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
91 and Charter Oak State College.

92 Sec. 2. (Effective from passage) Notwithstanding subdivision (5) of  
93 subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
94 act, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall not pursue merger,  
95 closure or consolidation of the regional community-technical colleges  
96 into one community-technical college through any regional accrediting  
97 association recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department  
98 of Education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-6(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a)(5)(B), "the board shall send" was added and "shall be sent" was bracketed for clarity, and in Section 1(a)(5)(C), "subparagraph (A)" was changed to "subparagraph (B)" for accuracy.

**HED** Joint Favorable Subst.